Number 17

Palestine Perspectives

June/July 1985

SABRA AND SHATILA: MASSACRE II



$1.50

Editorial
Editorial
Editorial

ISRAEL IN LEBANON: TO HELL AND BACK

There is no better illustration of Israel's perverted concept of peace than its three-year war in Lebanon which, in Israeli doublespeak came to be known as "Operation Peace for Galilee." What Israel advertised to the world, in June 1982, as the dawn of a hundred-year Israeli Reich turned out to be a three-year nightmare for Israel and everybody else. Its consequences will continue to plague the Middle East for some time to come.

The military editor of the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* recently reviewed Israel's three-year war in Lebanon (*New York Times*, 31 May 1985). "Our military situation has deteriorated," he wrote. "Today, Israel is eager to regain the position it held on the Lebanese border before the outbreak of the war." After summarizing the other setbacks Israel suffered in the course of its adventure in Lebanon he concluded by saying that "the main lesson of the war is that military might is not of much use in trying to reach a political solution."

The question is, did Israel really learn this lesson? Its proclaimed intention to maintain indefinitely a colony in the south of Lebanon through a quisling militia, and its threats to bomb Lebanese villages out of existence whenever it sees fit to do so indicate that Israel only knows how to live by the sword. Its rejection of King Hussein's recent proposals for Arab-Israeli peace, which gave Israel all that it said it wanted from the Arabs (direct negotiations within the framework of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338) indicates that Israel is still intent on sowing the seeds of future "wars of choice."

Palestine Perspectives is published monthly from October to May and bimonthly from June-September by:

Palestine Research and Educational Center
818 18th Street, NW, Suite 645
Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: (202) 466-3205

Editor: Dr. Muhammad Hallaj
Assistant Editor: Khalil Jahshan
Production Manager: Foster K. Tucker

Signed articles express the views of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Palestine Research and Educational Center.

Subscription rates: In the U.S. and Canada, $15/year ($10 to students). Elsewhere, $25/year. Single copies, $1.50.

Israel has developed a vested interest in armed conflict. Its "friends" worked hard, on its behalf, to inculcate a feeling of sympathy for its self-inflicted "plight" as a state cursed by unending wars. They continually lamented its "trauma" in Lebanon and its "predicament" in the occupied Palestinian territories. Nevertheless, Israel continually reaped benefits from its wars, and this is the true secret of its fixation with violence.

Israel was born out of bloodshed. Unlike other "newly-independent states" which came into being since World War II, it did not emerge out of the decolonization process which resulted in the political emancipation of a hundred Afro-Asian nations. On the contrary, it was a part of the colonial movement against which the decolonization struggle was waged. That struggle was successfully consummated almost everywhere in the world but still continues in Palestine.

Due to the imbalance of power in the Middle East, Israel grew and grew. Like a shark which tasted blood, it prospered with every war. For Israel, wars became opportunities which were too tempting to resist. American subsidies for Israel's wars further diminished their liability.

The Arabs bear much of the blame for Israeli infatuation with war and conquest. They made them easy enough. What they must do, for their own sake as well as for the sake of peace in the Middle East, is to continue Israel's education begun, but only begun, in Lebanon: that war has a price that is not totally borne by one side. As long as the Arabs (with their blood) and the Americans (with their money) continue to pay for Israeli militarism, wars will continue to plague the Middle East, no matter how many peace proposals the Arabs come up with. □

M. Hallaj

IN THIS ISSUE

FORUM
Israel: Merchant of Blood — *Matti Peled*
Homeless Babies — *Felicia Langer*

PLO NEWS
Interview with Yasser Arafat
PLO Message to Beirut Camps
Arab League Calls for Cease-fire

LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION
POWs Face Israeli Duplicity (Analysis)
Letter from the Jordan Valley
Gaza Fishermen Jailed
BZU Fears Settler Attack

WASHINGTON WATCH
Reagan's Know-Nothingism (Commentary)
The Peace Nightmare
Intolerance in Toledo

WORLD VIEW
Hearing on Israeli Practices
Pope Urges Action on Lebanon
Kreisky Fears Assassination

ISRAEL: MERCHANT OF BLOOD

Matti Peled

[The following article on Israel's global network of totalitarian clients was published by the Israeli daily ***Ha'aretz*** *on March 4, 1985. This English translation is taken from the Shahak Papers, where it appeared under the title, "Israel and the Arms Market." Matti Peled, a former Israeli general, is a member of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament]:*

Several months ago people were shocked to find out that Israel was involved in the bloody conflict in Sri Lanka between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority. A confirmation of the fact that Israel gives help to the majority by supplying "advisors" in methods of oppressing the minority, was given by no other than the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka himself. In spite of that, [Israeli Prime Minister Shimon] Peres denied it when I asked about it. Now another part of the affair is being revealed: A London weekly reports that two Israeli Dabur boats have arrived in Sri Lanka in order to support its navy in an attempt to cut off supply lines for the Tamil rebels who receive aid from their brothers in India.

If this is true, then it means that Israel is not only involved in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, but also in the complicated relations between it and India, thus making enemies not only of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka (who have never harmed Israel) but also of the Tamil people in India who make up one of the largest ethnic groups in India. The Minister of Defense has admitted that the Israeli Defense establishment failed to realize beforehand the impact of Israeli involvement in Lebanon on the Shi'ite population on our northern border. Did anyone in the establishment examine the possible effects of our involvement in Sri Lanka on the Tamil population? This is neither the only case nor the first of its kind. ***Behind a veil of secrecy there lies a thick net of Israeli involvement all over the world in dozens of local conflicts and in the service of totalitarian regimes.*** In many cases the involvement extends beyond one state to include a whole area. The best example is Central America. In Nicaragua, Israeli governments have supported the dictatorial regime of Somoza up to his last moment in office, even when the United States, which put him in power, had already deserted him. For the citizens of Nicaragua, the name of Israel reminds them of the Israeli weapons used by Somoza to destroy whole quarters in the towns of his country in his desperate attempt to hold on to power, and now of the weapons that Israel supplies to Somoza's ex-soldiers—the Contras—who are fighting in the service of the U.S. against the Sandinista regime.

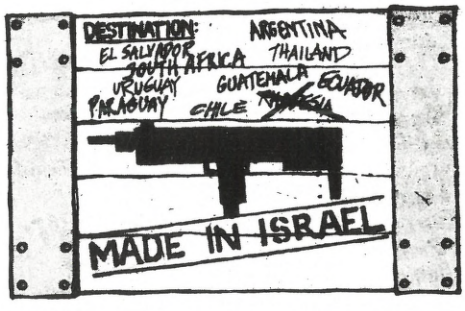
In Central America, Israel is the contractor for dirty jobs. When the U.S. had to stop supporting the regime in Guatemala because of its acts of oppression and massacre, this support was replaced by Israeli aid, which is in fact American aid through Israel. Israel had a similar role in the bloody civil war in El Salvador.

There exists a direct link between Israel's policy in the Middle East and its international involvement, which is just a monstrous extension of the same policies. When Israel continues to maintain for 18 years a regime of occupation over a population of a million and a half [Palestinians] using this population as a reservoir of cheap labor lacking any political rights, it is building the foundation for Israeli apartheid. It is no wonder then that commercial ties and cooperation with South Africa are increasing at the same time. During these 18 years, a new generation of officers was raised spending most of its time enforcing Israeli rule over an occupied population.

In the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Druze villages on the Golan Heights, and currently in south Lebanon, ***Israel has given its soldiers practical training in the art of oppression*** and in methods of collective punishment. It is no wonder, then, that after their release from the army, some of these officers choose to apply their knowledge in the service of dictators who are pleased to employ Israeli experts in the art of oppression.

In recent years, Israeli policy had been one of unrestricted rearmament. The Israeli army has been expanded far beyond real security needs. The war in Lebanon proved that a large army can be at a disadvantage from a purely military point of view. ***The increase in armament and the employment of large parts of Israeli economic resources in the military industries require markets for arms, necessitate that Israel not be careful in the choice of clients who want to buy Israeli arms, and turn Israel into a merchant of blood.***

The public control over this kind of activity is very negligent. The decision to get Israel involved in conflicts that are not ours ties us to the destiny of cruel and corrupt regimes, and turns whole nations into our enemies. Such decisions are taken in the dark, at some official level, with no control or knowledge of the Knesset. In many cases, the decision is not even taken by some official body, instead, it is made by private individuals such as reserve officers employed by tyrant regimes. There is no Knesset control over such activities, either. One can find similarity with the first stages of the war in Lebanon which were carried out without real control by the Knesset or the government. The Israeli public is by now convinced that the attempt to get involved in internal Lebanese conflicts and the attempt to create a "new order" had totally failed and caused Israel much damage. It would be the right thing for the Israeli government to stop all secret attempts to create "new order" all over the world, from Sri Lanka to the Philippines, from South Africa to Central America, before we get into a situation that cannot be remedied as in Lebanon □



FORUM

HOMELESS BABIES

Felicia Langer

[One of the most cruel but least-known aspects of life under Israeli occupation is the breakup of many Palestinian families. The Israeli military authorities decreed that any Palestinian who was not physically present in the West Bank and Gaza when they were seized by Israel in 1967, lost his or her right to residence. A student who was studying abroad, or even a taxi driver who was driving a tourist to Amman when the war broke out, automatically lost their residence. They could see their families only as temporary visitors, if the Israeli military governor authorized it.

Although, theoretically, such people could reacquire residence through a "reunion of families" scheme, such applications are seldom approved. The same problem is faced by a Palestinian resident of the occupied territories who marries a Palestinian who resides abroad.

*The following article, by Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, Vice-President of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, deals with this little-known Palestinian tragedy. It is part of a report she prepared, based on her personal involvement on behalf of separated families, taken from the Shahak Papers—**Editor]:***

Since 1948, the Palestinian Arab people have become a nation of refugees. Villages and families were torn apart and hundreds of thousands of persons were doomed to live far away from their homeland and their dear ones, as a result of laws enacted by Israel since its foundation. In 1967, after the end of the June War and the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Levy Eshkol, who was [Israel's] Prime Minister at the time, said about the Israeli-occupied areas: "What a wonderful dowry, but the bride...." The bride, meaning the [Palestinian] residents of the areas, were for Eshkol and others a blemish on the beauty of the dowry and they sought to get rid of them. But it was clear that the conditions of 1969 were not like those of 1948. True, at the beginning of the war, hundreds of thousands of people were forced to leave. Three peaceful villages in the Latrun area were destroyed and their inhabitants were evicted, a warning and "advice" to the Palestinians that they better leave. But this time they clung to their land and homes, sometimes even to their ruins, and made it clear that they didn't intend to move.

However, in the course of years of occupation, there were some who were forced to wander, together with their families, looking for a job far away from home, where they could not make a living due to Israeli government policy that forbids all development in the areas, turning them into a convenient market for Israeli merchandise and an ample source of cheap labor. Those who left the area to earn a living for their families lost the right of residence, as did their children. But who can cut off the attachment of a man to the homeland where he has grown up, which is his only home? Thus a flow of visits started. Former Palestinian residents and their children became visiting guests in their own homeland, but the link with the homeland continued. Many Palestinians have also visited their relatives and old friends in the Arab countries, where the latter found means of subsistence after having been forced to abandon their homeland.

Hundreds, some say thousands, of Palestinian marriages resulted from these meetings. What all of them have in common is that one of the marriage partners (in most cases the husband) is a resident of the area, while the second partner is a former resident or the son or daughter of a former resident.

Married persons who are nonresidents are allowed to stay in the area with their marriage partners, only by securing a visitor's permit which is extended by the authorities every few months. But the condition for an extension is that the applicant must leave the area, stay for a certain period of time in the East Bank (Jordan), and afterwards he or she is allowed to visit the West Bank or the Gaza Strip again, and so on. This explains why hundreds of mothers with little children have been forced for years to wander back and forth, leaving their infants behind with their husbands or risking long journeys with them.

Recent regulations have made the situation even worse by stipulating that a person who wants to renew his permit must leave the area and stay in the East Bank (Jordan) for six months. Furthermore, every trip of this kind, and the high fees it involves, make it a torturous procedure—drawn out for years. These couples applied to the military government for reunion of families, but all their applications were rejected. I have dealt for many years with this problem, which I consider of great importance as



an expression of a policy to rid the area of a large number of Palestinian inhabitants. In some cases appealing to the Supreme Court of Justice helped, but other cases have been waiting for an answer for many months.

In the course of my involvement in these painful issues I encountered heartless, insensitive attitudes which have shocked me. I will describe here one particular case which is representative of many others:

His little lips are opened in his sleep, as if he were smiling. The tiny hands, slipping from the sleeves of his blue shirt, are lying motionles at his sides. His round face reflects the tenderness and peacefulness of a human being who has become acquainted with our world only a few months ago.

The mother shifts him from one place to another in my crowded office and he, accustomed to being moved around, does not quiver in his deep sweet sleep. A little angel, one of those who are depicted in advertisements for all kinds of products.... And so lies this tiny creature in his sleep, not letting you concentrate on anything other than himself. I approach him from time to time as if a hidden thread were attracting me to him in a deep desire to protect him from the evils of the world. ***When he grows, his parents will surely tell him how special he was in those days; a baby who was unwanted in his homeland even before he was born, an infant whose fate compels him to wander, because his father is guilty of being a Palestinian.***

The story is almost banal and there are thousands like it—untold, unpublished and breathtaking—causing helpless pain and anger. The father was born in Gaza which, by order of the occupation, ceased to be a "Strip" and became a "District." He married a woman who is not a resident of the District and the infant was born of this marriage. The baby was born in love and so they wanted to bring him up in his homeland. They approached the military governor of the District and asked him to allow the mother to stay in the area, with her husband, within the framework of the reunion of families. They heard about family holiness and integrity according to Jewish law, including the rule that the wife follows her husband wherever he goes, and the right of children to live with their families. But probably they have not heard of one mother and grandmother, the late Prime Minister Golda Meir, who said how painful it was for her every time she heard about the birth of another Arab baby.

It is a fact that the Palestinians ignore Golda and others, and they establish families and bear children, even from marriages with people from other areas. And what will become of us when we let them live in the District that is reserved for Jewish settlements that are the supreme commandment for us? That is why she, the mother, is not permitted to stay here, except temporarily under a visitor's permit, and afterwards she has to leave with the baby in her arms. If she can't take him with her, let him stay with the father who cannot nurse him. But who cares about such "trifles"? Maybe it will teach her and thousands like her that there is no room here for them, nor for their offspring. □

PLO News and Views

ARAFAT EVALUATES HUSSEIN-REAGAN TALKS

[The recent visit to the U.S. by King Hussein of Jordan has raised many questions as to the Palestinian reaction to several statements made by the American and the Jordanian sides in Washington. The following excerpts from an interview with Yasser Arafat reflect his assessment of the American-Jordanian talks. The interview was conducted by Belal Al-Hassan of ***Al-Yom Assabeh,*** *10 June 1985]:*

Q: *King Hussein recently completed his talks in Washington, how do you assess these talks and their impact on the Palestinian position?*

A: As King Hussein told me by phone, and as Prime Minister Zayd Al-Rifa'i briefed me later on about the details of these talks conducted by King Hussein with the U.S. President, the Jordanian side adhered to the firm position that the PLO must participate in any negotiations within the framework of an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all concerned parties including the PLO, on the bais of the Fez Summit resolutions and U.N. resolutions, including those of the Security Council, and proceeding from the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and above all its right to self-determination through the proposed confederation between Jordan and Palestine.

His Majesty the King and the Prime Minister assured me of Jordan's unwavering commitment to these principles expressed by His Majesty during his talks with the American side. My understanding from His Majesty and from the Prime Minister, the talks were beneficial and fruitful. They have achieved some progress particularly vis-a-vis the international conference which the American side agreed to consider in principle. In the past, the American position was based on three well-known noes: No to the PLO, no to a Palestinian state, and no to an international conference. Now the Americans are talking about the possibility of holding such a conference.

Q: *Do you believe a formula for the international conference could be devised without extensive discussions with the USSR, particularly between the U.S. and the Soviet Union?*

A: When we called for an international conference we meant a conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and specifically the Soviet Union. It is also well known, as our Soviet friends have informed us, the subject was discussed by the U.S. and the USSR during the Vienna talks between Shultz and Gromyko.

(continued on page 5)



ARAFAT EVALUATES *(continued from page 4)*

Q: *The U.S. has expressed its support for an international conference in the past, however, its proposed formula stipulates a conference at the end of the negotiation process on the Middle East conflict.*

A: The truth of the matter is that such a position was never expressed before. The U.S. completely rejected the idea of an international conference prior to King Hussein's visit.

Q: *There is another problem with the U.S. position that pertains to the nature of Palestinian representation. Shultz announced few days ago that the U.S. is prepared to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, on condition that the Palestinian side include members of the Palestine National Council who do not have day-to-day executive responsibilities. Is the PLO prepared to accept this proposition?*

A: Our position is one of principle. It was confirmed at the Executive Committee meeting in Baghdad, and at the latest meeting of the PNC Central Council in Tunis. We proceed from the principle that the PLO has the right to name the members of the Palestinian delegation. We shall not allow any party to infringe upon this right.

Q: *There remains a fundamental gap between the Palestinian position and the American position?*

A: This gap exists indeed, that is why in my earlier assessment of the King's talks I specified that there was "some progress" in the American position. I did not say "complete progress."

Q: *If you were asked to determine your own formula for a Palestinian delegation, what would be the bases for its selection?*

A: The basis for us stems from the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the only party entitled to nominate its delegation.

Q: *Without discussing names or formulas?*

A: The question is one of principles, not one of names and formulas.

Q: *While we are discussing the issue of the international conference...we must deal with your relations with Moscow. There are rumors and innuendoes that there exists a crisis in Palestinian-Soviet relations. What are the facts on this matter?*

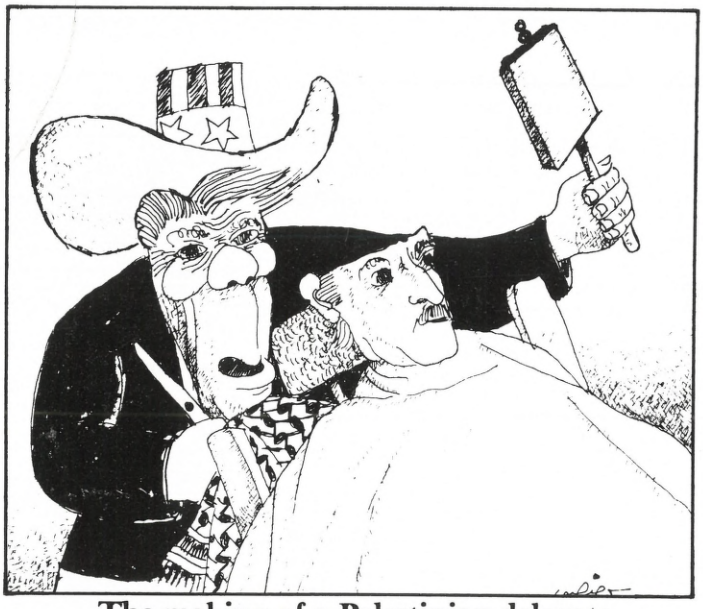
A: This is not true. The Soviet Union is certainly faced with a dilemma, namely, that its friends in the area have disagreements among themselves. Its friends in the area are, first of all, Syria—which has a friendship treaty with the USSR—and second, the Palestinians; and third, the Iraqis. All three parties are in disagreement. The Syrian side is in conflict with the Iraqi side and with the Palestinian side. I do not want to go into other problems faced by the Soviet Union in the Arab world. Generally speaking, the Arab position is not reassuring, and this puts the Soviet Union in an uncomfortable position.

The Soviet Union, for example, did not attend the 17th session of the PNC in Amman, however, it took into consideration its results. It did not attend in deference to its Syrian ally, but it took into account the results of the PNC meeting out of consideration to its Palestinian friend.

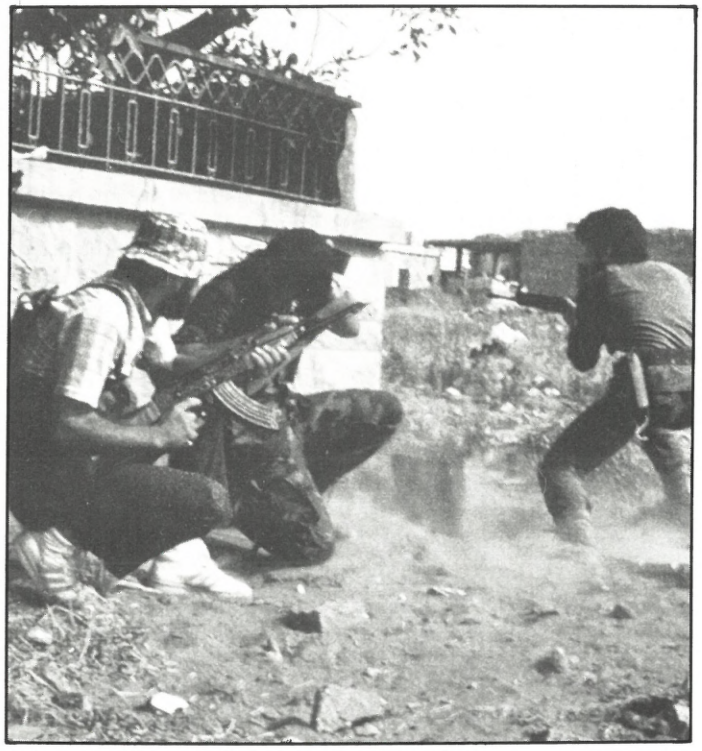
During recent events, as another example, the Soviet Union took a firm and decisive stand regarding the crimes committed against the camps, rejecting all Syrian attempts to justify the affair. Soviet leaders sent two important messages to the Syrians urging them to exert all efforts to stop the bloodshed committed against Palestinians in the camps.

Q: *But aren't there some frictions between Moscow and yourself over the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement?*

A: I must refer here to the statement adopted by Comrade Andropov and myself in 1983. The statement referred to the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. This means that the Soviet Union has accepted the principle of special and distinct relations between Jordan and Palestine. The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is simply one aspect of this relationship. However, the Soviet Union believes, and they are entitled to do so, that there is an American attempt to drag the PLO and Jordan into the Camp David accords, particularly since the establishment of a false linkage between the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the initiative proposed by President Husni Mubarak, which was rejected by us and by Jordan.... □



The making of a Palestinian delegate



ARAFAT'S MESSAGE TO BEIRUT CAMPS

As Palestinian fighters and their Lebanese allies resisted a new onslaught by Amal militias against the Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh camps in Beirut, ***PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat*** *addressed a message to the camp residents and the Lebanese patriots who stood by them. Following is a part of Arafat's message:*

Our Palestinian people in Lebanon have one cause, which is Palestine, and one known adversary which is Zionism and its imperialist masters and their agents. We will not be distracted by side battles, and we will not be trapped by ambushes set up by the conspiracy against us, a conspiracy which targets both Palestine and Lebanon, and of which the Zionist invasion of 1982 was a principal phase.

We want nothing from Lebanon. We do not covet its land or waters. This fact was shown during the years of our forced presence in Lebanon. The Palestinian Revolution and the Palestinian people resolutely rejected all resettlement schemes and fought against all attempts to deprive them of their identity and their just struggle for the right of return to Palestine, as well as the defense of a united Lebanon. Our people have the right to join the Lebanese patriots in a brotherhood of struggle against common enemies.

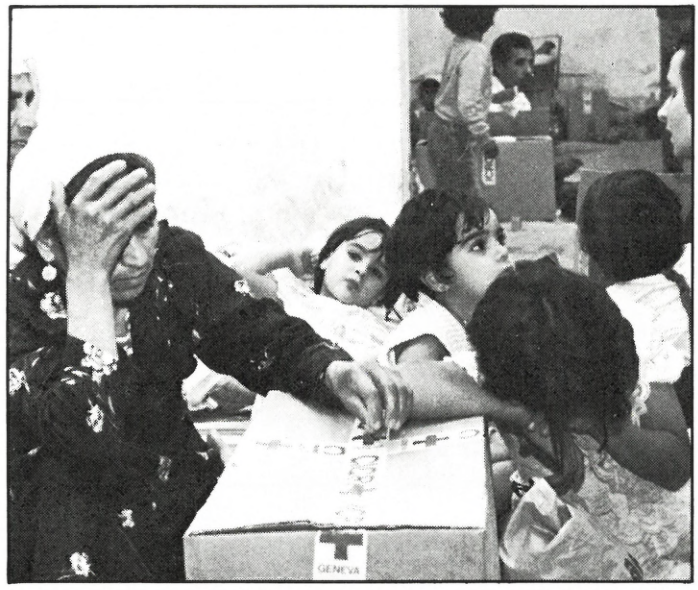
In my capacity as Chairman of the PLO and Commander of the Palestinian Revolution, I salute our people in the camps and express my gratitude and devotion to our Lebanese brethren who stood by them in their difficult hour. Our enemy is one, and our guns should be aimed together against him. Our cause is Palestine and Holy Jerusalem, and we will always stand by our Lebanese brothers in their struggle to free their homeland and to preserve Lebanon's unity and Arab identity. □

PLO News and Views

ARAB LEAGUE CALLS FOR CEASE-FIRE

At the end of its two-day emergency session on 8-9 June 1985, to discuss the situation in Beirut, the Arab League Council issued a statement calling for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire and an end to the siege of Palestinian camps in Beirut. The Council also urged the withdrawal of all forces surrounding the camps from the area, the release of all detainees, and a commitment to abide by principles of Arab sense of honor.

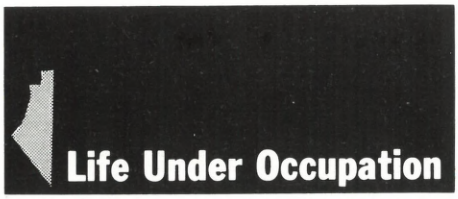
The emergency meeting, held at the invitation of the PLO, to discuss details of the situation around the beseiged camps of Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh in Beirut, also called for "facilitating the mission of the International Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent in entering the Palestinian camps to evacuate the wounded, secure their safety, and offer all types of medical assistance." The Council urged the combatants to allow and assist all evacuees to return to their homes in the camps.



Childhood memories

The Arab League Council appealed to the Lebanese government to "cooperate and coordinate with the PLO in matters that concern Palestinian presence and safety" in Lebanon, including the reopening of PLO offices in Beirut. The Council further stressed its commitments to the independence, unity and sovereignty of Lebanon, urging all Arab parties to help Lebanon stem the continuation of the explosive situation there by supplying the necessary guarantees to restore normal life in that country.

Mr. Chedli Klibi, Arab League Secretary General, was instructed by the Council "to contact all concerned parties to secure a cease-fire," and to submit a report to the next Council meeting scheduled for 24 June 1985. □



LETTER FROM THE JORDAN VALLEY

David Adams

Despite a military occupation that does its best to squeeze the last breath of enterprise out of its subjects, the Arab Development Society, near Jericho, is proof that a tenacious will and a bit of money can overcome such adversity.

Brainchild of a distinguished Palestinian, Musa Alami, who died last year, the fortunes of the ADS since its foundation in 1949 have closely mirrored developments in the overall situation in the now occupied territories. Born in 1897, only a year after the first Zionist Congress in Basle, Musa alami grew up in the Old City of Jerusalem, graduated in law from Cambridge University, rose to government advocate in the pre-1948 Palestine government, and was the sole representative for Palestine at the Alexandria conference of 1944 which led to the setting up of the Arab League. His politics were practical, and his driving ambition after 1948 was to find ways to help his fellow Palestinians stay on their land, particularly those who, after 1948, had flooded into the West Bank refugee camps.

His vision is just as important to Palestinians today. Musa Alami believed that the strongest card in the hands of the Palestinians was the very fact of their continued presence in what was left of Palestine. In 1949, on behalf of the ADS, Alami submitted a memo to the United Nations outlining ways in which half a million refugees could be settled within the boundaries of the West Bank. In the space of only three years he had, through his own initiative, provided the precedent for future development. With a few faithful friends, he took over a 5,000-acre tract of barren wasteland near Jericho, only three miles west of the Jordan river, and seven miles north of the Dead Sea.

Proving all the experts wrong he found water after five months of digging with only the most rudimentary tools, and started to cultivate the land. If ever anyone "made the desert bloom," it was Musa Alami. In a short time the ADS was producing an astonishing variety of fruit, vegetables and fodder crops, a dairy farm and a poultry farm had been started, and a school and vocational training centre for refugee orphans had opened. Standards were exceptionally high; farm produce was sold throughout the Middle East and was renown for its quality, while boys left the project with academic qualifications that led them to gain places at foreign universities. The area surrounding Jericho soon began to witness the sprouting of other small farms inching their way out into the arid and salt-encrusted terrain. But all that had been achieved was destroyed overnight during the 1967 war. Occupied by an Israeli battalion and shelled by the Jordanian army, the ADS was left in tatters.

Musa Alami refused to give up. Gradually the ADS was put back on its feet, but those who knew it in the last 17 years of Alami's life could never say it fully recovered. However, only a year after his death, the ADS is now showing signs of a new lease on life. Under the guidance and sponsorship of the Swedish Save the Children Fund and the Norwegian Refugee Council, the clock is being turned back to prove what can be done

ANALYSIS...
POWS FACE ISRAELI DUPLICITY

In the previous PLO-Israel prisoner of war exchange agreement in November 1983, Israel violated the agreement by holding on to a number of Palestinian prisoners it had agreed to free, and by not closing down the notorious Ansar detention camp that it had agreed to dismantle. In the latest prisoner of war exchange agreement, Israel unleashed its fanatics to hound the freed prisoners who chose to remain in the occupied territories and to intimidate their families and communities.

Israeli settlers, armed with lists of the released prisoners, with fire arms, and with the blessings of the Israeli authorities, are roaming the West Bank and Gaza threatening the recently-freed prisoners with dire consequences if they do not leave the country. Leaflets carrying this message have been widely distributed in the occupied territories by Jewish settlers.

In 1982, Israel could not capture Beirut from its Palestinian and Lebanese defenders. Then an agreement was reached, through U.S. mediation, under which the Palestinian fighters withdrew from Beirut on the condition that Israel would not enter Beirut or harm the Palestinian civilians left behind. The result was the murder of more than a thousand Palestinians and Lebanese in the massacre of Sabra and Shatila, perpetrated by Israel's mercenaries while Israel's soldiers illuminated their way with flares and watched from surrounding rooftops.

Now, armed Israeli hooligans are engaged in the reconnaissance phase of a "seek and destroy" rampage in the occupied territories. The "freed" Palestinians (who were simply transferred from the smaller prisons to the larger prison called the occupied territories) face a life-threatening situation. They are being hunted by the sort of people who have already murdered college students, booby-trapped buses, and planted explosives in places of worship.

The irony of it is that whenever the possibility of Palestinian-Israeli peace is raised, voices are heard demanding from the Palestinians proof of capacity to honor agreements. In fact, if any one needs to be reassured it is the Palestinians who have been constantly victimized by Israeli duplicity and deceit. A reversed, mirror-image of reality may suit "Israel's friends" whose mission in life is to facilitate and then cover up Israel's unlimited war on the Palestinians. But it does not help in the advancement of the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

Confusing the victim with the victimizer is the surest way to obstruct justice. And the obstruction of justice is the surest way to subvert peace. □

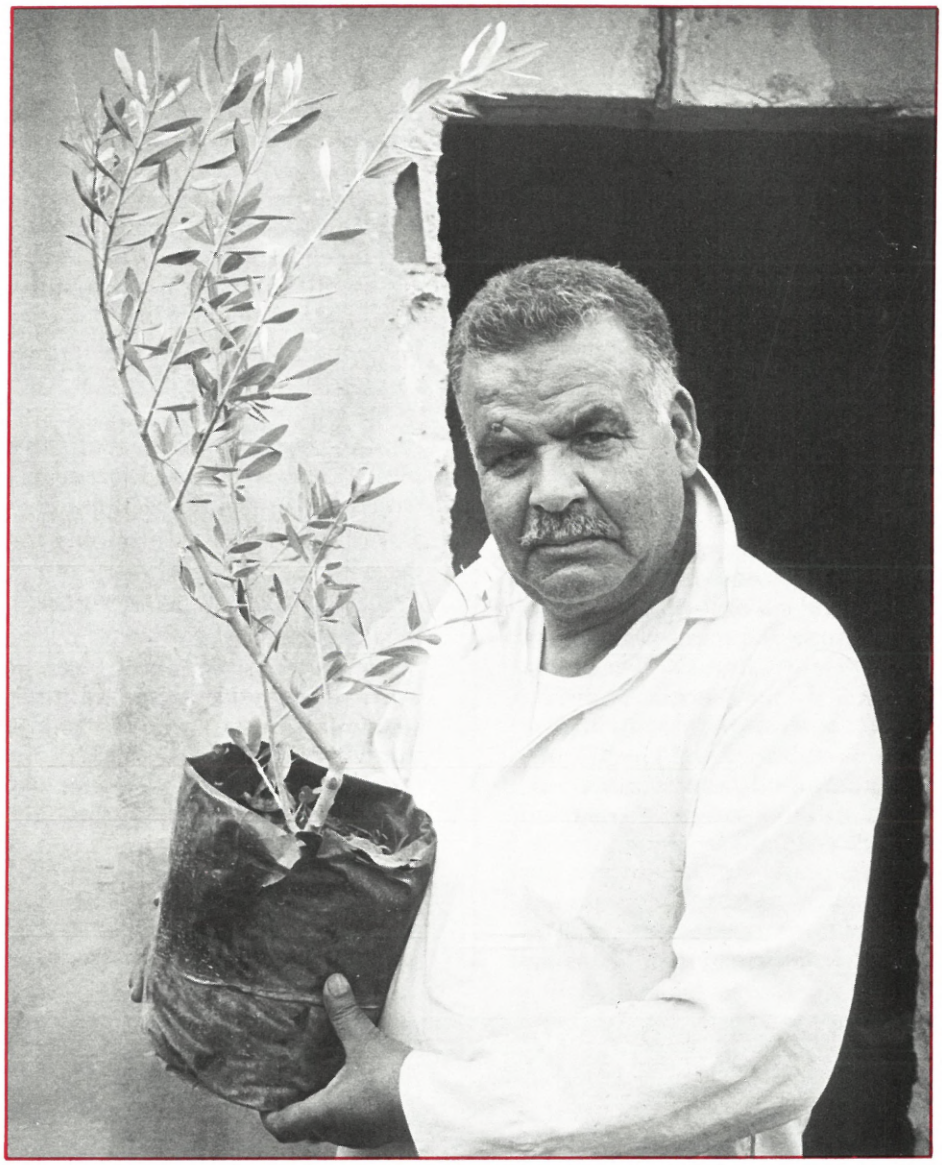
despite the military occupation. Although it may yet be premature to talk of a complete return to the pre-1967 stature of the project, the potential Alami discovered is there again, providing a leading example to others in the West Bank.

Farm manager Love Almquist modestly admits that in the year of new management, "we are very pleased with the results so far." Dairy production has been raised by 300 per cent, the poultry farm is expecting a rise in production of 500 per cent and land has been returned to cultivation. Palestinians who are too young to recall the former success of the project greet news of its rejuvenation with excitement. The new-found success of the project may mean renewed problems with the military authorities but the Swedish consul, Mr. Arnold Hjertstrom, who has been closely involved with recent developments, told the ADS annual general meeting earlier this month, "we have had no problems in the last year and we shall not allow anything to undermine what has been achieved."

The revival of the project comes at a time when Palestinian farmers in the Jordan Valley have been demonstrating a dramatic increase in production which has attracted large orders from abroad. Meanwhile Israeli colonisation in the Valley is at a low ebb, having levelled out at only 2,450 settlers. However great the enticements, the area has failed to attract new immigrants. Between 1983-4, although the number of settlements grew from 21 to 25, the settler population dropped, and this year, not for the first time, they are having to be bailed out to the tune of $7.5m by the Jewish Agency.

Although for farmers in the Valley and for the ADS, many of the problems of military occupation do appear insurmountable, recent evidence suggests that in contrast to the situation in the highlands, Palestinians in the Valley are strengthening their roots on the land. □

*[Reprinted from **Middle East International** (London), No. 251, with permission]*



ISRAELIS UPROOT TREES

Israeli soldiers using bulldozers uprooted and confiscated 1500 olive trees planted by residents of Obeidiyya village in the occupied West Bank. A spokesman for the Israeli occupation authorities claimed that the trees were planted illegally on land considered a "firing line" by the Israeli military.

Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967, the Israelis have resorted to a variety of arbitrary and oppressive methods aimed at depriving the Palestinians of their land. Thus far, Israel has managed to confiscate and control over 52% of Palestinian land in the West Bank.

The olive trees were planted by the Awwad family in a 500-dunum plot of land which they owned. Members of the family told *Al Fajr* (7 June 1985) that three years ago they learned of Israeli plans to confiscate their land. However, they never received official notification of such action by the Israeli military authorities. Attorney Abed Assali, who represents the landowners, confirmed that the Awwad land was not officially confiscated three years ago when neighboring plots were expropriated. He protested the unjustifiable and inhumane measure taken by the Israeli military which affected the livelihood of 300 family members. □

TERROR CAMPAIGN AGAINST RELEASED PRISONERS

Reports from the occupied territories confirm that radical Jewish settlers continue to wage a campaign of terror against 600 recently released Palestinian prisoners who chose to rejoin their families in occupied Palestine. The May 20 exchange of prisoners between Israel and the PFLP-GC was vehemently opposed by Israeli settlers who demanded the release of all Jewish terrorists in Israeli custody.

The harassment campaign was launched immediately after the prisoner exchange as armed Jewish settlers began to provoke the Arab population by entering Palestinian villages and towns to distribute leaflets warning the released prisoners to leave the country. They also posted "Wanted" signs showing pictures of released Palestinian prisoners. Members of the Gush Emunim gangs and other settlers proceeded in large groups to terrorize local Palestinians by using gunfire, vandalism and threats to force the ex-prisoners to leave. Eyewitnesses reported numerous incidents of Jewish settlers firing their guns at homes of released prisoners and vandalizing Arab property.

The threatening leaflets distributed by the settlers throughout the occupied territories read as follows:

We who live in the Jewish settlements in the area of Shchem [Nablus] hereby notify all of the terrorists that have been released contrary to all justice and morality:

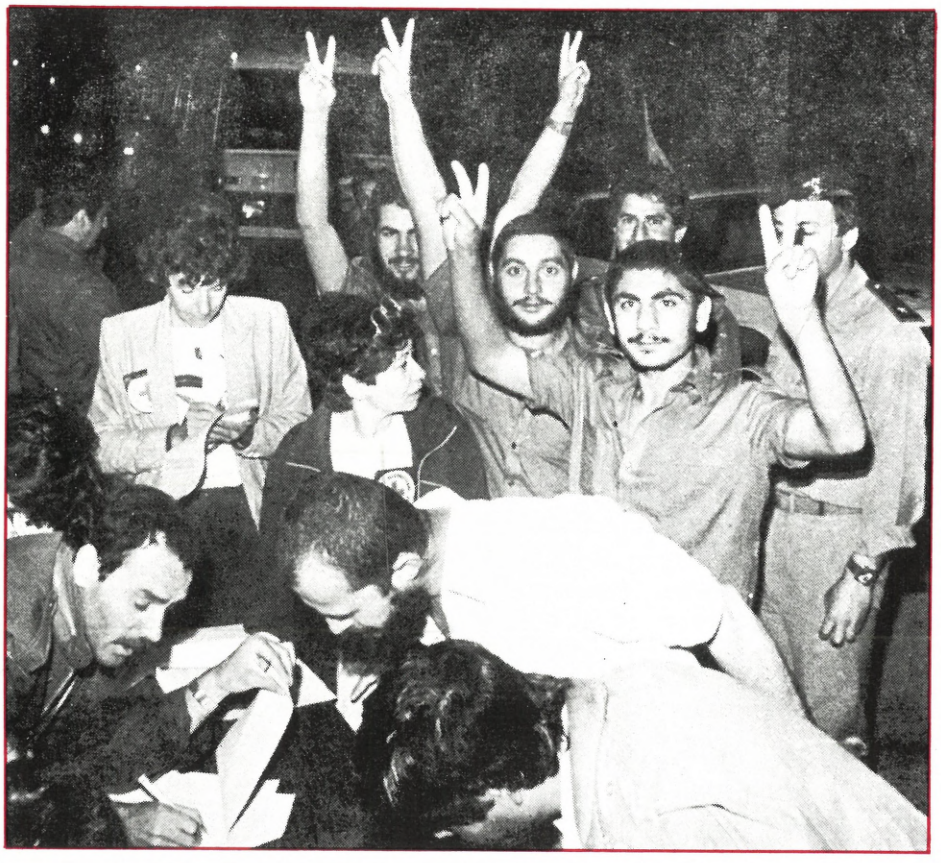
1. We have not and will not forgive you for the crimes which you have committed.
2. Since there is no reconciliation (Sulha) between us, we cannot recognize you as neighbors in peace.
3. We want to tell you frankly for the sake of peaceful relations in the area, that *it would be in your best interest to leave as soon as possible.*

And finally, we would like to warn all the residents and all those responsible in the area that if stone-throwing or terrorist attacks continue against Jews, the response would be immediate and it would be your responsibility.

Al Fajr reports from Jerusalem that this terror campaign by Jewish settlers is not confined to the West Bank. Other Palestinian ex-prisoners residing in the 1948 areas, who are Israeli citizens, have also been harassed.

Despite promises by the Israeli military government in the occupied territories to tighten security and control settler vigilantism, so far, the Israeli authorities have appeared unwilling to do so. The settlers have interpreted official indifference as tacit approval for their campaign to drive the released prisoners out of their homeland by terrorizing them and their families.

The Jerusalem Post reports that three released Palestinians have agreed to leave their homes in Al-Ferdis, a West Bank village south of Bethlehem, after Jewish settlers raided the Arab village and vandalized a number of houses. Many ex-prisoners have been staying with friends and relatives away from their places of residence to avoid exposing their immediate family to harassment and violence. □



GAZA FISHERMEN JAILED

In an attempt to destroy the native Palestinian fishing industry in Gaza the Israeli military authorities arrested 40 local fishermen on June 1 and seized their boats. The Palestinian fishermen were accused of fishing outside the zone arbitrarily designated by the military government. According to *Al Fajr*, the fishermen were later released pending trial. A trial date has not yet been set.

A spokesman for the Fishermen Union in Gaza accused the Israeli authorities of seeking "to destroy the Gazan fishing industry to facilitate Israeli takeover of the fish market in Gaza." The restricted fishing zone was imposed by the Israelis in 1982, but it was never accepted by the 1200 operating fishermen in the area.

Palestinian fishermen complained that the zone is too small and deprives them of their traditional fishing area where commercially profitable fish can be caught. The closed zone enforced by the Israelis is not applicable to Israeli fishermen who are allowed to operate throughout the area without restrictions. □

BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY FEARS SETTLER ATTACK

Fanatical Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank "represent a grave threat both to the university as an institution and to the actual physical safety of our faculty and students." This warning by Dr. G.A. Baramki, BZU vice-president, was conveyed to the international academic community in an "open letter" dated April 3, 1985. In his appeal for intervention on behalf of the university, Dr. Baramki warned that the ongoing campaign against the university "could bring settler terror to our campus."

When the BZU official issued his statement, the main campus was closed for a period of two months, starting March 8, by the Israeli occupation authorities. It is feared that the present offensive against Birzeit University by Israeli settlers, who are demanding its permanent closure, would lead to a Jewish terrorist attack against it similar to the attack on the campus of the University of Hebron in the summer of 1983, when fanatical settlers attacked it, killing three students and injuring more than 30 others. Following is the text of Dr. Baramki's message to the academic community:

Open Letter to
The Academic Community

In a widely reported meeting on April 1, between the Council of Jewish Settlements in the occupied West Bank and Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, settler representatives demanded—not for the first time—that Birzeit University, along with other West Bank universities, be shut down permanently.

We are writing you because we think that this demand, and the forces behind it, represent a grave threat both to the university as an institution and to the actual physical safety of our faculty and students. We think so for two reasons. First, we have often witnessed in the past the "wild" demands of extremist settlers here becoming in time the status quo of the land. To give only one example, the extremist settlement of Kiryat Arba was established in open defiance of government policy at the time; it is now one of the major "urban centers" in the official plan for settlement in the occupied territories. Indeed, in the current political scene, with an often-shaky coalition government in power, we fear that the settler movement has even more political leverage than in the past. Already, some Knesset members, like Geula Cohen from the right-wing Tehiya Party, echo the settlers' demands that Birzeit be closed "forever."

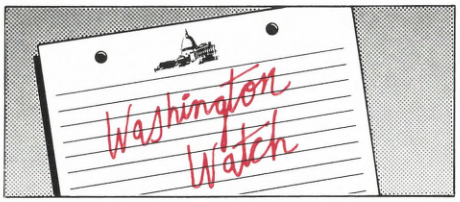
Our second reason gives us even more cause for alarm. Extremist settlers have taken the law into their own hands so many times that it is now a pattern. It is possible that the demands of the settlers might well ignite a campaign against Birzeit University that could bring settler terror to our campus. We note that papers seized in the "Jewish Terror Underground" trial, where settlers have been charged with such acts as the killing of three Palestinian students at Hebron University in July 1983 and the maiming of the Palestinian mayors in June 1980, revealed that Birzeit University was among the targets for future action by this terror network. This fact underlines that the danger to Birzeit faculty and students from settler violence is very real indeed.

The settlers' demand to close our university came in the wake of a shooting incident in the town of El-Bireh in which a settler was killed. As there was absolutely and quite obviously no connection between this event and Birzeit University (or any person attached to the university), the question arises: Why are the settlers pressing for the closure of universities as their central demand? The answer is simple but chilling: Birzeit University, and other universities in the West Bank, serve the Palestinian community and educate Palestinian students. They cannot, as much as the settlers might want it, strip their students of their identities as Palestinians. The normal aspirations of the young for a more just world are shared by our students; the normal duties of a university to develop critical intelligence, useful skills, and a sense of community responsibility are our duties as well.

This alone is enough for the chauvinistic logic of the settlers to demand the closure of Palestinian universities. It is not, however, convincing to anyone who does not inhabit the narrow world bound by settler fanaticism. We urge the academic community to first, inform itself of the dangers posed by the settler movement to West Bank universities, and second, to protest the threats against these universities to their academic associations, human rights organizations, and governmental representatives.

As we write, Birzeit University is still suffering a "three-quarters closure," due to the military order of March 8, to close our main campus for two months. Our attempts to hold final examinations this week for half of our student body on the old campus, have ground to a halt due to a strict curfew imposed on the towns of El-Bireh and Ramallah. We again note that these events have transpired while governments, including the Israeli government, continue to mouth platitudes about their commitment to the "quality of life" of Palestinians living under military occupation.

Birzeit University will not surrender its right to provide quality education in an atmosphere of academic freedom to our 2300 students. We hope, however, to have your help, in ensuring that the university can provide a safe and adequate environment for this education to proceed. We very much appreciate those academics who have already protested to the Israeli government about our current closure; we hope their numbers will increase in the days to come. □



THE PEACE "NIGHTMARE"

It has become clear that the Reagan administration's concept of peace in the Middle East is that peace is a debt the Arabs owe Israel. Furthermore, it perceives itself as a "collection agency" working on Israel's behalf. It is difficult, otherwise, to understand U.S. reaction to Arab efforts to revive the search for peace in the Middle East.

During the past few months, a succession of Arab leaders streamed into Washington to convey and confirm Arab readiness for a serious effort to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict by political means. First came the Saudi monarch, and during his presence in Washington, the PLO-Jordan agreement of February 11 proclaimed Arab readiness to "exchange land for peace," a principle which embodies the gist of all peace plans, including Security Council Resolution 242 and the Reagan plan of September 1982.

Then came Egypt's President Husni Mubarak who proposed to host PLO-Jordanian negotiations with Israel. He was soon followed by King Hussein of Jordan who went farther by proposing direct negotiations (under the cover of an international conference) on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In short, the Arabs offered the U.S. (and Israel) what they always said they wanted from them.

Israel's Minister of Defense, Yitzhaq Rabin, quickly flew to Washington to make sure the Reagan administration does not show too much enthusiasm for the Arab moves. Israel expressed fear that such moves would lead to U.S. recognition of the PLO "through the back door," as if nonrecognition were an end in itself.

Israel's fear of the possibilities of an Arab "peace offensive" were contagious. *The New York Times* (8 June 1985) quoted a senior State

(continued on page 12)

COMMENTARY...
REAGAN'S KNOW—NOTHINGISM

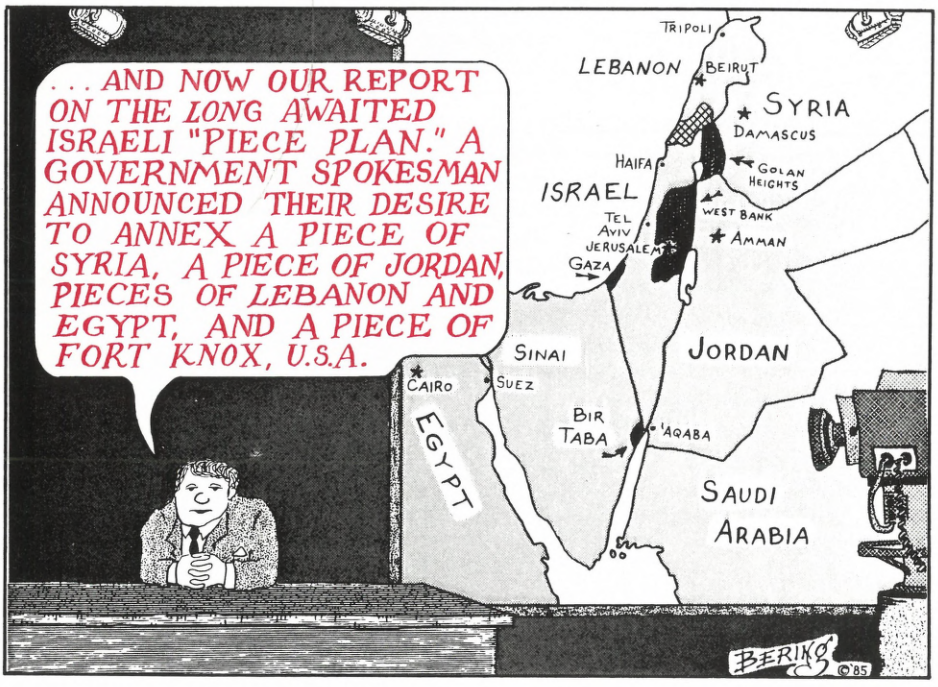
A former U.S. ambassador to the Middle East, commenting on the prevalence of misinformation on the Arab-Israeli conflict in the United States, said that he was discouraged by the fact that America was the only country in the world ever to produce a political party called the Know Nothing Party. That, of course, is bad enough when it happens in the 19th century. But a know-nothing president in the year 1985 is really scary.

In a recent column entitled "The Hussein-Reagan Link," published in the *Washington Post* (10 June 1985), the columnists Evans and Novak revealed that the president's ignorance of the realities of life in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza surpasses that of a casual newspaper reader.

Evans and Novak wrote that the president was surprised to hear that Israel was economically exploiting the occupied territories. When Jordan's foreign minister, Taher Masri made this "revelation" to the president, "Reagan showed surprise bordering on disbelief." He asked for more startling discoveries. Masri informed the president that "West Bank farmers cannot sell their produce in Israel, but Israelis can flood the West Bank markets with theirs. Masri told of humiliations to Palestinians crossing from the East to the West Bank to see their families." According to the usually well-informed columnists, one U.S. official who was present at the meeting, described President Reagan as "upset" upon learning of these well-known facts.

We do not want to "upset" the president, but in all honesty we want him to know that life is a lot harder in the Israeli occupied territories than Mr. Masri told him. In fact, it is downright grim and even life-threatening. People are being deprived of their livelihood, including their farmland; they are imprisoned without charge or trial; their homes are demolished; they are deported from their country; their schools and universities are frequently closed...not to mention the attacks on their mayors and municipalities, mosques, churches, buses, college campuses, and the thousand and one other forms of intimidation to which they are subjected daily.

As we said before, we do not want to "upset" the president, but we hate to see him less informed than the proverbial man in the street either. To be informed on issues of vital concern to America is an obligation the president owes to the American people. And as long as he insists on being the sole arbiter of the Arab-Israeli conflict, he owes it to the world, because this is a conflict which has potentialities for a global disaster. □



NIGHTMARE

(continued from page 11)

Department official saying that his "nightmare" was that the Palestine Liberation Organization would agree to all the conditions set by the United States for recognition by Washington, provoking a new crisis in American relations with Israel.

Why would the United States fear PLO acceptance of its conditions, and why would that cause a crisis in U.S.-Israel relations? What does it mean?

Israeli and U.S. apprehension, caused by increasing Arab readiness for a political settlement expose the insincerity of their position. They do not want peace negotiations, with or without an international umbrella. They know that the Arabs would go to the negotiating table to claim their occupied territories, and the last thing Israel wants is to discuss the return of territory with anyone.

Israel's view is that its 1967 conquests solved the Middle East question, and all it wants from the Arabs is to learn to live with "the facts" it created on the ground and, preferably, to legitimize them. The U.S. role is to "soften" the Arabs and to secure their acquiescence. There is no other way to explain U.S.-Israeli "fears" of Arab peace overtures.

Considering the fact that the U.S. is committed to maximizing Israel's gains in any political settlement, it is understandable that it continues to urge the Arabs to be "more forthcoming" no matter how much they offer. But the best indication that it is working as a "collection agency" on Israel's behalf, rather than a peace broker, is that it is not asking Israel for anything in return. The least the United States should do as it urges the Arabs to be "more forthcoming," is to ask Israel to reconsider its rejection of the Reagan Plan of 1982. The Likud cabinet considered and rejected Mr. Reagan's ideas for peace within 24 hours. A new government has been in office in Israel for a year, but the Reagan administration never asked for a new Israeli position. No wonder Israel believes that it is to be a beneficiary of peace, not a contributor to it. □

INTOLERANCE IN TOLEDO

An Arab-American professor complains of being hounded out of his position at the University of Toledo. Dr. Abid A. Al-Marayati, a tenured professor in the Department of Political Science and the Director of the Center for International Studies, has been stigmatized in confidential department reports as incompetent in his instruction, unproductive in his research, and abrasive with his students, when in fact he received the "Outstanding Teacher" award in the 1980-81 academic year, and has a long list of publications. He was also the recipient, in 1984, of an award from the International Institute of Greater Toledo for services to his community. The award, according to the Institute's citation, is the "highest award bestowed on persons born outside the United States who have adopted this country as their chosen home and have significantly contributed to the growth of their community and their nation."

For this honor, the General Assembly of Ohio passed a resolution to congratulate Dr. Al-Marayati, "a remarkable individual, combining civic concern and commitment with selfless initiative. . . ."

Evidence abounds of Iraqi-born Dr. Al-Marayati's charges of harassment for ethnic and political reasons. His department's confidential reports seem to be based on "complaints" by unidentified students. They also include obvious distortions. Dr. Al-Marayati was given poor ratings for his teaching at a time when he was on a leave of absence, working in Kuwait. Political bias is also shown by the "charge" that he often discusses the Arab-Israeli conflict in a course on the United Nations!

In the fall of 1984, the NAACP, sensing ethnic prejudice, asked one of its lawyers to investigate. After studying relevant university files dealing with the matter, he reported that he was "totally shocked that once again, religious and cultural prejudice as well as attacks on academic freedoms again has reared its ugly head." He submitted a report to that effect to the Board of Trustees of the University of Toledo, dated 31 October 1984. The report included documentary exhibits to support its findings.

Instead of making a serious effort to deal with Professor Al-Marayati's grievances, the harassment intensified. *Palestine Perspectives* has learned that Dr. Al-Marayati is now pursuing a lawsuit against the University of Toledo.

The harassment of professors who do not express Zionist and pro-Zionist views in U.S. colleges and universities has become an epidemic. This problem is the subject of the May-June 1985 issue of *The Link*, the publication of the New York-based Americans for Middle East Understanding. The issue, titled "The Middle East on the U.S. Campus," was written by Dr. Naseer H. Aruri of Southeastern Massachusetts University. □

BANG, BANG!!!

During his recent visit to Washington, Jordan's King Hussein met with some members of Congress to explain to them Jordan's need for U.S. weapons. After the meeting, Congressman Stephen Solarz (D-NY), a well-known Israel supporter, said that King Hussein made a strong case on behalf of his country's security requirements. The King demonstrated with charts, Solarz said, that Jordan can be easily overwhelmed by Syrian forces. The problem, Solarz continued, is that if the U.S. gives weapons to Jordan to fight Syria (which is presumably all right), these weapons could be turned against Israel (which is obviously not all right).

Clearly, Congressman Solarz faces a technical problem. He wants to find weapons which fire live bullets when they are aimed north, but—as in the cartoons—say "BANG" when they are turned west. The state of military technology, being less advanced than the art of cartoons—means that Jordan must wait for a future technological breakthrough, which no one is promising at this time. □

In Brief

FROM SHAMPOO TO ANTI-SEMITISM

There is now a Vidal Sassoon Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The recently-inaugurated center is to be supported by contributions of several million dollars from contributors led by hair stylist Vidal Sassoon.

ISRAELIS ARE GETTING OUT

The Bank of Israel recently reported that 10,000 Israelis emigrated in 1984, twice as many as those who departed the Zionist state in the previous year. The statistics include Israelis who have been residing abroad for at least a year.

COURT-MARTIAL POWS

Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Levy wants to court-martial eight Israeli soldiers captured by the PLO in Lebanon, and who were subsequently released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. These eight soldiers, according to Levy, disgraced the Israeli army because they laid down their arms and did not attempt to defend themselves or to escape.

ISRAEL SUPPLIES THE WARS

Commenting on the U.S. invitation to Israel to participate in President Reagan's "Star Wars" scheme, the Israeli daily *Davar* said that the U.S. will supply the stars and Israel will supply the wars.

MORE OPPRESSION... MORE RESISTANCE

Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza increased by 27 percent in 1984, according to Israeli sources. The Israeli daily, *Davar*, said Israeli police statistics show that in 1984 there were 432 acts of Palestinian armed resistance, compared with 340 in 1983.

WHO IS A JEW?

Conservative Jewish congregations in America decided to blacklist and to ban speaking engagements by the 51 members of the Israeli Knesset who voted for legislation to recognize Orthodoxy as the official definition of a Jew. This definition would disqualify most American Jews (Reform and Conservative) from claiming rights under the Israeli "Law of Return" and similar laws which recognize rights and benefits only to Jews.

THE REHABILITATION OF HELMS

Senator Richard Helms (R-NC) continues to provide the Zionist lobby with signs of his repentence. Helms, who became a "friend of Israel" after the Zionist lobby fought him in the last elections, wanted the 1986 foreign aid bill amended to permit Israel to spend U.S. money to encourage more Israeli settlement in the occupied territories.

"QUOTE UNQUOTE"

"Behind a veil of secrecy there lies a thick net of Israeli involvement all over the world in dozens of local conflicts and in the service of totalitarian regimes."

Matti Peled
Ha'aretz (Israel)
4 March 1985

"The current consensus in Israel seems better adapted to living—with every Arab country but Egypt—in an indefinite state of war."

Stephen S. Rosenfeld
Washington Post
31 May 1985

"We have to find the answers to the question: How big is Israel?"

Abba Eban
Jerusalem Post (Israel)
Week ending 15 June 1985

"For many, the main lesson of the War [in Lebanon] is that military might is not of much use in trying to reach a political solution.... In Lebanon, for the first time, we discovered that one can win a victory on the battlefield yet suffer a strategic defeat."

Ze'ev Schiff
The New York Times
31 May 1985

"History has shown that failure to live up to the principle of genuine self-determination leads to abuses of human rights."

Michael Armacost
Under Secretary of State
9 May 1985

"It is commonly thought that only the Shi'ite extremists are suicidal. Wrong. The Israelis are too, only we do everything more thoroughly. They do it because they are fanatic [sic] and don't heed warnings. We do it because we are thick-skulled and don't heed warnings."

Aryeh Palgi
Al-Hamishmar (Israel)
12 March 1985

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Enclosed is my payment of $ for a one-year subscription to **Palestine Perspectives**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Rates: $15/yr for regular subscriptions; $10 to students; $25 outside the U.S. and Canada.

PALESTINIAN LITERATURE IN SPANISH

A new book on Palestinian literature has been published in Spain. The book, *Escritos sobre literatura palestina*, was written by Pedro Martinez Montavez, professor of Arabic literature at the University of Madrid.

The book analyzes, in one of the essays it includes, the literature of famous Palestinian writer Ghassan Kanafani, who was assassinated by Israeli agents in 1972. Another essay discusses contemporary Palestinian theater, with emphasis on the Jerusalem-based Hakawati group and its productions. A third essay analyzes the degree to which contemporary Palestinian literature, especially poetry, reflects the Palestinian ordeal and resistance. □



UN HEARING ON ISRAELI PRACTICES

The United Nations Special Committee on Israeli Practices, meeting in Amman, Jordan, heard reports of harassment, arbitrary imprisonment, discrimination and other acts of repression Palestinian Arabs continue to face under Israeli occupation.

For four consecutive days, the Committee heard testimony from Palestinians and other sources who have direct experience of the human rights situation in the occupied territories. The Special Committee was set up to monitor and report on Israeli human rights violations in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. It has been consistently refused permission to visit those areas, thus it relies on hearing of testimony in neighboring Arab states.

Prior to its May 19 meeting in Amman, the Committee held public hearings in Damascus, where eleven witnesses submitted reports of personal violations of human rights in daily life under occupation, in Israeli prisons, in education, in public health services, in agriculture, industry and other areas of daily economic activity. □

REPORT ON PALESTINIAN WORKERS

A report issued by Director-General Francis Blanchard of the International Labor Organization (ILO) recommends that social and economic disparities in the occupied Arab territories should be overcome "through the elimination of the inequalities of opportunity and treatment to which the local population is subjected, particularly as regards the possibility of making their land productive and of expanding and marketing their agricultural produce."

The report, prepared after a mission was sent by the Director-General to Israel and the occupied territories, has been submitted to the International Labor Conference held from 7 to 27 June in Geneva. □

World View

POPE URGES ACTION ON LEBANON

Pope John Paul II, in a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, expressed his alarm at the "indescribable human tragedies" taking place in Lebanon, and called on the United Nations to take "specific initiatives" and seek "an expanded presence" of its forces there.

In his letter, the Pope said that after so many years of confrontation in "the blood-drenched land" of Lebanon, which seemed to have brought nothing but devastation, intolerance and mourning, he feared there would be even more tragic events. The Pope said that he was continuing every effort to apeal to the conscience of nations and their leaders, in order that "Lebanon may become itself once again."

The Pope called upon the United Nations to "do everything in its power to coordinate the specific and urgent initiative that such a complex crisis demands." He added, "I am further convinced that the Organization will not hesitate to strengthen the action it is taking to bring peace to the area, through an expanded presence of the force which it has maintained for years in Lebanon and which is taking on a particularly important mission." □

PALESTINE IN CYPRUS

Palestine participated with 14 other countries, including the United States and Japan, in the Tenth International Fair held in Cyprus during the last week of May and the first week of June 1985. The fair was opened by the President of Cyprus who visited the Palestinian exhibit.

Palestine has been a regular participant in this annual event since it was initiated in 1976. This year, the Palestinian wing contained products made in the occupied territories and by SAMED, the industrial and economic establishment of the PLO. The exhibit included Palestinian costumes, mother of pearl and wood crafts, as well as works by Palestinian artists. □

KREISKY FEARS ASSASSINATION

Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky cancelled a planned visit to Israel and the occupied territories after he had been warned of a possible assassination attempt against him by Jewish fanatics in Israel. Kreisky, himself a Jew, helped negotiate the recent prisoners of war agreement beween Israel and the PFLP-GC.

Kreisky was alerted to the possible attempt against his life by the Israeli International Center for Peace in the Middle East which had invited him for a lecture tour of Israel. Jewish fanatics in Israel have been voicing outrage about the POW exchange agreement, have been demanding the release of Jews convicted for acts of terrorism, and have been engaged in acts of violence and intimidation against the released Palestinian prisoners and their families. □

ISRAEL'S ECONOMY: BOTTOMLESS PIT

Despite massive American efforts to rescue Israel's collapsing economy with an infusion of dollars, totaling $7.1 billion of grants over the past two years, the Israeli economy continues to worsen. This is the conclusion reached by the Bank of Israel in its recently-published report for 1984.

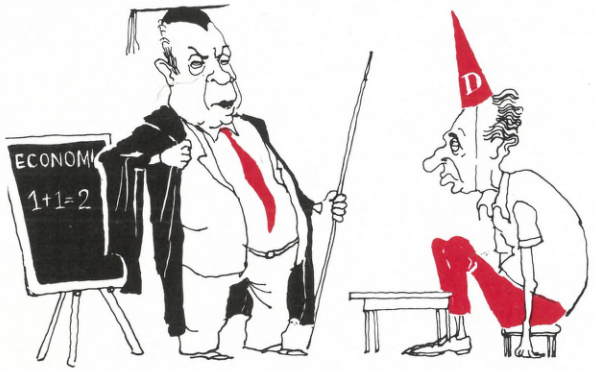
Moshe Mandelbaum, the governor of Israel's central bank, attacked the government's mismanagement of the economy and urged major changes in current economic policy. His recommendations included substantial cuts in the budget, lifting of restrictions on imports and the reduction of export subsidies. Similar recommendations were made in recent months by the International Monetary Fund. A recent U.S. Senate report on the economic crisis in Israel said that drastic reforms were needed if an economic collapse in Israel is to be averted, a possibility which cannot be avoided even with the most generous American aid.

The governor's report warned that all the leading economic indicators in recent months showed economic deterioration. Exports are not growing, imports continue to rise, and government spending has not dropped. In addition, net collection of taxes for 1984 dropped by 40 percent, while government's spending exceeded revenues by 16-17 percent of the GNP, the highest ratio since the 1973 war.

The Reagan administration, whose support of Israel has been unequivocal, has been attempting to link the increase in U.S. aid to serious and meaningful economic reforms by the Israeli government. However, as a result of Israel's influence in Congress, Israel succeeded in outmaneuvering the administration and got its requested emergency aid without any assurance that the Peres government would undertake the necessary reforms. Israel's "friends" ensured the administration's acquiescence by unleashing a noisy campaign against Reagan's visit to Germany.

Meanwhile, further Israeli-U.S. talks on bilateral economic relations, within the framework of the U.S.-Israel Joint Economic Development Group, are currently underway in Tel Aviv. A high-level American delegation headed by U.S. Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Allen Wallis is representing the United States at these talks. The delegation also includes profesors Herbert Stein of AEI and Stanley Fisher of MIT, both of whom are close confidants of Secretary of State George Shultz. Informed sources in Washington believe that Reagan adminstration officials share IMF's concern about the ineffectiveness of current Israeli approach to ease Israel's economic crisis. Therefore, the U.S. delegation is expected to press the Israelis for the adoption of IMF recommendations embodied in a comprehensive stabilization plan which the Israelis seem to be unwilling or incapable of enforcing at this time.

The U.S. failed to secure from Israel a commitment to reform its economy even before granting it the various types of assistance sought by the Jewish state. It is less likely to do so now. □



Middle East International

Palestine Research and Educational Center

818 18th Street, NW
Suite 645
Washington, DC 20006

Address Correction Requested